

Form 2202

FROM:

SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

Accession No. G-441-1015

NOV 10 1943

Date Rec'd SA

To	Room No.	Date		Officer's Initials	Comments
		Rec'd	For'd.		
1. LOUD	2262	11/11	11/18	g. sp	
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

ABST.	ST	INDEX
DATE		

Each comment should be numbered to correspond with number in To column.
 A line should be drawn across sheet under each comment.
 Officer Designations should be used in To column.
 Each Officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing.
 Action desired or action taken should be indicated in Comments column.
 Routing sheet should always be returned to Registry.
 For Officer Designations see separate sheet.

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Office of Strategic Services
US Army Forces in the Middle East

No. 8043

Oct. 18, 1943

PALESTINE : POLITICAL

(NOTE: by O.S.S. Cairo).

The following is forwarded in response to the request made to Laing on Sept. 6 for copies of the correspondence between Shakib Arslan and Haj Amin Hussein concerning Italian propaganda. The photostatic copies mentioned have not yet been located, but the search is continuing. Herewith is a contemporary CID report on the matter. The concluding notes are furnished by the present ISLD representative in Jerusalem.

Sir,

Subject:- Emir Shakib Arslan - Italian Propaganda.

1. The publication by "Al Jamia el Islamia" of a letter alleged to have been sent by Emir Shakib Arslan to Haj Amin on the subject of Italian Propaganda has caused a great agitation in Arab political circles.

Political leaders and members of the Istiqlal in the beginning believed the authenticity of the report, but resented the action of the Sheikh Sleiman el Farouki as the publication of such a document is detrimental to Arab interests.

2. The general public believed this document and express distrust in the persons involved, namely, Haj Amin Hussein, Emir Shakib, Ihsan Jabiri and Riad el Sulh, whom they accuse of having made an agreement with Italy for private benefit. The Moslems in Palestine hate Italy on account of its policy in Tripolitania and will not forget the news of atrocities which she is alleged to have committed. The statement of "Al Jamia al Arabia" denying the authenticity of the document had no effect on the public, and unless a case is brought to Court and its forged character is established, its effects will not be removed. It however, appears that:

- (1). Haj Amin Hussein and Ihsan Jabiri insist on regarding the document as forged.
- (2). Haj Amin Hussein gave instructions to his supporters to publish the report that it is forged.
- (3). Haj Amin believes that the object of publishing this document is to lower his prestige in, and out of Palestine, and to mar the success of Nebi Musa.

(X)

3. Ihsan Jabiri is reported also to have insisted in his conversations on the inauthenticity of this document. He, however, could not deny privately that the Palestine-Syrian delegation arrived at an agreement with Italy two years ago in regard to its policy in Tripolitania and the granting of self-rule to the Moslems there, and as a result fifty thousand Moslems were returned to their territories, and had their properties restored to them, were granted agricultural loans, etc. The Syrian-Palestine delegation, on the other hand, undertook to cease its hostile campaign against alleged Italian atrocities. Ihsan Bey is further reported to have pointed out that this agreement with the Italians had received the prior agreement of Moslem leaders such as Emir Omar Tousson, Abdel Aziz Tha'alibi, Abdel Rahman Aszam (who was deported from Palestine at the time of the holding of the Islamic Congress on account of an anti-Italian speech), Bashir Saadwai (a Tripolitania leader who is resident in Damascus, and who attended the Islamic Congress), Yassin Pasha Hashemini, Ibrahim Hanano, and Sheikh Rashid Rida, who all favored a policy of friendship towards Italy and promised to desist from agitation in consideration of the satisfaction of the demands of the Tripolitanian Moslems.

4. Ihsan Jabiri has furthermore declared (also in a private manner) that Italy greatly assisted Iraq in securing its independence, while Mussolini has promised to assist Syria and show sympathy, but secretly, towards the Palestine Arabs in their fight against Zionism.

5. It is understood that the Istiqlal leaders are intent on denying the authenticity of this document and believe that this is necessary in order to preserve the prestige of the Palestine-Syria delegation. Certain members of the Istiqlal have written in this sense to their supporters in Syria, Trans-Jordan and Egypt, informing them that the latter was forged by the National Defense Party in order to spoil the reputation of Haj Amin Hussein, place him in a critical position with the British authorities in Palestine, and disturb the relations between him and Emir Abdalla.

I have etc.

Sgd.) H.P. Rice

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL
C.I.D.

6. (Concluding Notes:)

(1). On May 5, 1935 SHAKIB ARSLAN wrote to the High Commissioner declaring that the letter was a forgery.

(2). Al Diffa Falastin - critical of the policy of Shanib Arslan in March 1935

(3). Opportunists accused Mufti and his party of being in Italian pay.

Date of Info: Apr. 20, 1935
Source: CID Jerusalem
Evaluation: Documentary

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A LETTER FROM THE A'IR SHAKIB ARSLAN DATED FEBRUARY 20, 1935, TO HAJ AMIN EL HUSSEINI, GRAND MUFTI OF JERUSALEM, A PHOTOSTATIC COPY OF WHICH APPEARED IN FALASTIN OF APRIL 19, 1935, UNDER THE TITLE OF "THE IRREFUTABLE PROOF". A PHOTOSTATIC COPY OF A LETTER SENT BY THE A'IR SHAKIB ARSLAN TO HIS FRIEND, HIS Eminence HAJ AMIN EFFENDI EL HUSSEINI, ASKING HIM - ACCORDING TO THEIR DISCUSSIONS IN MECCA AND THEIR AGREEMENT IN JERUSALEM - TO DISSEMINATE PROPAGANDA FOR ITALY IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES."

Geneva, February 20, 1935.

To my friend, His Eminence Sayyed Amin Effendi el Hussein:

Some ten days ago after my return from my trip about which you know I wrote to you a letter containing some views regarding the campaign against you which I have seen in the Palestine press because you did not appear to have taken a course opposing the English. You will pardon me if I say that I share some of these contentions with the press and I do not agree with you. With the English no humoring or bribe or policy avails. No one can deceive them because they are the most deceitful people. No appeal could be made to their sympathies nor to proofs. Compromise is a language which an Englishman does not understand. The only tongue he does understand is opposition. That is why I believe that your adherence to the friendship of these people will cost you your prestige not only with your compatriots in Palestine but also with other people. If this is the prepared plan of your foes, it would be better if you will not give the foe a chance. You know what I mean.

I do not know if our friend Ihsan Bey (el Jabiri) has told you of what has happened in Rome between the men of the Government and myself regarding what we discussed in Mecca and agreed upon in Jerusalem. I will now tell you that I am satisfied (my conscience is clear) as a result of the last meeting and from the assurance which Mussolini himself gave. I am certain that Italy will not dare to treat us like the English or French have treated us. If you are able to send our friend Jamal (el Hussein) here on his way to London I will acquaint him with things I am not here elucidate.

At any rate it was agreed to proceed as soon as possible to disseminate Italian propaganda in the Arab countries as the man said that he fears a world war will break out and that if all means are not now adequate then the gain which we anticipate will be lost. I have made some preparations which you will see in the next issue of La Nation Arabe. It is my opinion that we seize the opportunity of Abyssinia's conflict with them to show the evils of the Abyssinians to the Moslems.

The Propaganda Office in Rome may send some information for publication in our papers. I gave them the addresses of Al Jami'a al Arabiyya and Al Fihda al Arabiyya. But I did not give them the address of Al Jami'a al Islamiyya since our friend Jamal informed me of the fickleness of its proprietor. I have written to Riad Bey

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(el Solh) to take charge of the matter in Syria and requested him to see you so that you could give him the necessary instructions.

Mussolini asked me about your personal relations with Amir Abdullah. I did not consider it appropriate to include this element with us and I told him that the Amir was a tool with the English and that no good could be expected from him particularly since I have seen in the Palestine papers that he has returned to the lap of Ragheb (Bey Nashashibi) and his supporters.

I will write to you more explaining other important matters. Peace and God's mercy be with you.

Your friend,

SHAKIB ARSSLAN

NOTE:-

The Amir Shakib Arsslan's letter appeared in Palastin, the organ of the Nashashibi Party opposing the Mufti. The letter appeared at a time when the defeat of the Nashashibi Party in the Jerusalem Municipal elections was still burning hot in the hearts of the Nashashibi partisans. It was a time when each side villified the other. The letter was instantly claimed to be a forgery. The Mufti's press went to some length to prove that the writing, the language, and style and the signature were not Araslan's. The Nashashibi papers claimed the letter to be genuine and that circumstances showed the possibility of the letter. Such papers as could manage to stay non-partisan in such a storm only deplored the fact that there could be some people who lend themselves to the interests of foreign intruders.

Ad-Difaa (Jaffa), for instance, wrote that now it appears there are people working only for personal gain and selfish interests. They work to assist imperialists.

Al Carmel (Haifa) wrote that propaganda for Italy meant propaganda for slavery to Italy. Such propaganda will only encourage others to propagate the cause of England, France, Germany and others. Since it is agreed that such propaganda is traitorous, then it is not necessary to discuss whether the letter was genuine or not.

Saut ash-Sa'b (Bethlehem) was convinced that the document was a forgery.

Mer'at ash-Zharg (Jerusalem) wrote that this is how some people stoop to sell their country and scoffs at the idea that the document could be forged.

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
U.S. ARMY FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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Continuation of report on the correspondence between Emir
Shakib Arslan and Haj Amin. This was in response to a special request
from Washington.

LITERAL TRANSLATION FROM AL JAMI'A AL ISLAMIYA OF
THE 18th APRIL, 1935.

After publishing the following verses: "Defend yourself on the
day when every soul comes to defend itself and says all that it has
done, and they will not be oppressed" "He who deceives us is not of us"
"The pioneer does not deceive his people" "Whether you hide what is in
your breast or show it God knows it and knows what is in Heaven and
Earth. God is all-powerful. When the soul finds out what evil it did
it wishes that its meeting with God may be very far off. God warns you
of Himself and God punishes the people", the paper publishes the cliché
of the following letter.

Geneva
20th February 1935.

Our brother His Eminence Amin al Hussein,

Ten days ago, after returning from my trip of which you know, I
wrote you a letter containing my remarks on the campaign which I see
directed against you in the Palestine Press for your not coming out with
a policy of hostility to the English. Do not blame me if I tell you that
I share the opinion of the Press and do not agree with you. Flattery,
bribery and policy are useless with them. No one can trick them for they
are the cleverest of tricksters. You cannot conquer them by sentiments
and proofs. Softness is a language which the Englishman does not under-
stand. The Englishman understands only opposition. Therefore, I believe
that your sticking to the friendship of this people will make you lose
your influence not only with the people of your country in Palestine but
with other people as well. If this is a plan schemed by your enemies, it
is preferable that you should not allow the enemy to attack you and you
know well what I mean.

I wonder if our brother Ihsan Bey has informed you about what has been accomplished between me and the men of the Government in Rome with regard to what we have talked about in Mecca and agreed to in Jerusalem. Now I inform you that my conscience was satisfied by the last interview and by the assurances which Mussolini himself gave. I am confident that Italy will not dare to treat us as the English and Franco have. If you can send Jamal to me here on his way to London I will show him what I find not permissible to explain here.

At any rate we have agreed to start spreading propaganda for Italy in the Arab countries as soon as possible; for the man told me that he feared a world war and if the circumstances are not available from now on, the advantages which we expect will see it in the next number of the magazine "La Nation Arabe". In my opinion we should take the opportunity of their dispute with Abyssinia and should show the evils which the Abyssinians have done to the Moslems.

The Propaganda Bureau in Rome may send some information to our newspapers for publication. I gave the addresses of "Al Jami'a al Arabiya" and "Al Wihda al Arabiya". I have not given them the address of "Al Jami'a al Islamiya" seeing that Jamal informed me on your behalf of the instability of its proprietor.

I wrote to Riad Bey about this in order that he may take command of the situation in Syria and asked him to see you so that you may give him the necessary instructions.

Mussolini asked me about your personal relations with the Amir Abdullah. I found it not suitable to introduce this element with us. I informed him that the Amir was the puppet of the English and that no good is to be expected from him especially after I have seen in the Palestine Press his return to the lap of Ragheb and his supporters. I will write to you another letter full of details of other important matters.

Greeting and the mercy of God upon you.

(signed) Your Brother
Shakib ARSLAN.

Source : PBUSA
FONEY

Jerusalem Oct. 15, 1943.